

Joe's career started as a House Page and led him to positions on the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Education and Labor. In 2010, Joe joined the Clerk's organization as Reading Clerk, where this Chamber has enjoyed his voice and diligence for over a decade.

When asking the many teams who work with him how they would describe Joe, the word that came up repeatedly was "teammate." As a dedicated public servant with nearly three decades of experience and knowledge, Joe's attention to detail, mentorship, humor, and kindness made him an asset and a friend to every team he has been a part of. From his restaurant recommendations to stories about seeing his favorite bands play live on weekends, Joe will not only be missed by his colleagues in Legislative Operations, but by all of us who know him as part of this Chamber.

I would like to wish Joe well in his retirement and celebrate his commitment to serving this body so ably for so many years. Congratulations, Joe.

HATE CRIMES IN AMERICA

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was in the United States Congress when the first hate crimes legislation was written. It was written after the heinous killing of James Byrd in Texas, where a Black man was dragged through the streets of Texas and decapitated.

Tomorrow, the President of the United States will go to Georgia, where eight people were killed, six of whom happen to be Asian women. Yet a captain in the Cherokee Sheriff's Department said that the perpetrator had a bad day.

Mr. Speaker, wrapped in racism, white supremacy, and hatred, the Georgia law says that if you kill women, it may be a gender hatred crime. I want a full investigation. I believe in the Constitution due process, but this is a hate crime. People are dead, Asian women are dead, and this perpetrator should be held accountable.

If you are in law enforcement, the best role that you have is as a fact finder and someone who can offer sympathy that makes sense, not that the perpetrator had a bad day and this is what he did. I am having a bad day because we still have hatred in this country.

SUPPER FROM A LAB IS NOT A SOLUTION

(Mr. FORTENBERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, Nebraska is famous for its high-quality beef; and what wine is to France, beef is to Nebraska.

Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, a number of us took note when Microsoft founder Bill Gates proposed that the wealthiest nations move to a hundred percent synthetic beef—synthetic beef—to fight climate change.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have been in meetings with Bill Gates, and I respect his intellect and his desire for social responsibility by the world's wealthiest, and I have no beef with Bill for his desire to see us transition to a much more sustainable economy, and I agree. But making supper from a lab? That is not a solution. That is a chemistry experiment.

Mr. Speaker, America makes food, real food, and we shouldn't disrupt a nutritional food source and management of our animal resources that would have minimal effect on greenhouse gases.

I have an idea. I would like to invite Mr. Gates to the West Point Livestock Auction, and he can present his proposal for lab-based meat to the farmers and ranchers there. We would have a healthy debate.

OUR DIVERSITY MAKES US STRONG

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the millions of Dreamers who call America home and contribute to the rich tapestry of our country, yet have seen their dreams of a permanent home deferred over and over again.

These Americans, in every way but on paper, deal with uncertainty each day that we fail to act. Now that the House has acted, the Senate must immediately pass the American Dream and Promise Act.

In our melting pot of a city, New Yorkers have shown again and again that it is our diversity that makes us strong and that immigrants and the American Dream are linked.

So, today, the House made clear that immigrants are welcome here and that Dreamers deserve to know their home will not be taken away. I thank all of my colleagues who voted "yes" to providing this commonsense pathway to citizenship, and I urge the Senate to do the same.

CHILD ABUSE LEGISLATION NEEDS TO BE FIXED

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the House voted on H.R. 485, Stronger CAPTA, a reauthorization of the Child Abuse Protection and Treatment Act.

Abuse is obviously a horrible thing that no child should have to suffer. However, this legislation has multiple

issues which I call on the Senate to fix. Notably, it would create a national registry of child abuse and neglect.

Now, this sounds good, but under current law, a person does not need to be convicted or even charged with a crime to be put on a State abuse registry, which leads to many parents being added due to misfiled paperwork or perhaps overzealous CPS workers.

Homeschooling parents in particular face this issue, and an appeal can take months or even years to get a name removed from the list. By nationalizing State registries, this problem will spread nationwide without a fix.

The legislation attempts to address this concern by creating a working group to study and make recommendations on due process concerns, but that is not a sufficient safeguard for Americans' due process rights.

A 2009 HHS report on the feasibility of a national child abuse registry noted that a national registry would be plagued by false positives, where an innocent person sharing a name with an abuser would be flagged in background searches.

I call on the Senate to fix this legislation.

□ 2045

OBSERVING SLEEP AWARENESS WEEK

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to speak about Sleep Awareness Week, a week to remind us all of the importance of something we all need—a good night's sleep.

Sleep Awareness Week and World Sleep Day are internationally recognized and bring awareness to sleep and its important impact on our health.

The pandemic has taken a toll on all of us, including our sleep schedules. Increased anxiety and worries have made it harder than ever to get consistent and peaceful sleep.

Despite this fact, it is important we consider the instrumental role sleep plays in keeping our bodies and minds healthy.

A proper comprehensive view of good health must include the importance of rest. We all could use it.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure all American families, including 165,000 people in our country impacted by narcolepsy, have access to the healthcare they need.

Sleep, wellness, and health must go hand in hand.

HONORING GARY CLARK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOWMAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a longtime friend and the biggest advocate for veterans in central Florida, retired Air Force Colonel Gary Clark.

I have known Colonel Clark for 20 years as a fellow veteran and veteran's advocate. I am honored to recognize him as one of the distinguished 2020 inductees into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame. This is an honor truly befitting Gary, thanks to his countless contributions to Florida's veterans.

Florida is known as the most veteran-friendly State in America, with over a million vets calling the Sunshine State home. Anywhere you go in central Florida, if there is a veteran in need, you can bet that Gary is on it.

Retiring from the Air Force in 1993, Gary continued his service and quickly became a distinguished advocate for veterans. Gary established the Polk County Veterans Council, developed a partnership for the Polk County School Board to support 13 Junior ROTC units, and chairs the Flight to Honor Polk, which brings senior veterans to the memorials near Washington.

Gary coordinates an annual Veterans Day breakfast with the Rotary Clubs of Lakeland and has chaired the 15th Congressional District of Florida's Service Academy Nominating Committee for at least a decade, and he remains the chair for my current board.

Mr. Speaker, it is simply impossible to think of veterans in central Florida without thinking of Gary Clark. On behalf of Polk County and the 15th District of Florida, we congratulate him on this honor and his induction into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame, and we thank him for his selfless service to our veteran community.

SUPPORTING PUBLIC ACCESS TO CAPITOL

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on a more somber note, I rise in support of public access to this House, the people's House.

While I have only been a Member since January 3, as a former Naval aviator who had the privilege to travel to over 40 countries, I know the importance of our free and open democracy in both the figurative and the literal sense.

I was on the House floor on January 6 when violence erupted. As we continue to investigate the tragedy that resulted, the military fortress erected in response is a gross overcorrection.

Capitol Police have indicated there is no credible threat justifying maintaining this security posture. On March 4, facing nonspecific rumors of a potential threat, the House rushed to conclude its work the night before and did not meet. Not only was the threat unfounded, but the Senate, operating under the same security protocols as the House, was open and conducting the people's business, the same Senate that is only a few yards down the hall behind us.

Speaking of the differences between the two Chambers, doesn't it seem odd that the same House impeachment

managers who testified before the Senate without masks would insist that I be fined if I take my mask off right now, even though I have been vaccinated and there is no one around me?

In addition to dismantling this fortress, we should begin relaxing the protocols put in place a year ago to limit the spread of COVID. Today, all House Members have been offered the vaccine, and roughly 75 percent have been vaccinated. Many of the remaining 25 percent have antibodies from being infected previously.

There is no justification for this House to continue operating in a quasi-virtual state. The CDC has issued new guidelines easing masks and social distancing for the nearly 32 million people who are fully vaccinated.

It is time to end the proxy voting, begin in-person committee meetings, and return to regular order. Our strength as an institution relies on personal relationships and the ability to build alliances where we find common interests. As a freshman, I have yet to meet most of my colleagues. We should be working to find common ground, and that is simply not possible in a virtual meeting.

Mr. Speaker, as the new administration acts to tear down the wall at our southern border, we have a new one right here, paralyzing the seat of democracy. The hypocrisy is obvious, and it is shameful.

This is no longer about safety. It is about making every effort to create disruption and hide what is really going on from the American people.

It is time to take down the razor wire fencing, send the troops home, and open the people's House to the public.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADDRESSING THE BORDER CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD) for 38 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Biden border crisis, the unraveling of what was once a managed situation.

We are a compassionate Nation, but lawlessness is not compassion. Aiding and abetting cartels is not compassion. Putting policies in place that allow evil actors to abuse women on a journey is not compassion. Allowing them to grow and be funded into a destabilizing force in Central and South American nations that are trying to thrive and survive and create an economy for their own people, that is not compassion.

The policies that the Biden administration has put in place have caused this crisis at the border. It is different from the previous administration that came in, inherited a problem and had to put policies in place and make difficult decisions to come up with a solu-

tion. This administration inherited a solution and has put in place policies that have created a problem.

It was predictable. It was easy to avoid. It is unfortunate that we have to be here again to talk about this today, but we are here because the lives of those affected matter. They deserve it. They need their story to be told.

It is ironic that we are taking people off the border right now, our good men and women who signed up to protect and secure our border, to defend the Constitution, and to protect our communities. We are actually taking them off the border to sit at computers to do paperwork to process what has become a migrant humanitarian crisis.

We have essentially turned our brave men and women into the last mile, so to speak, for cartel activity. The business model that the cartels have to work throughout the world to bring people to our border, to charge them thousands of dollars each while they abuse them on the journey, while they put them into indentured servitude and then hand them over to our people simply for processing. That is not what they signed up to do.

The migrants deserve better as well, as do, certainly, our communities. We understand the strategy of the cartels to overwhelm our border and our resources with the humanitarian crisis and then sneak in drugs that destroy the lives of our young people and our families.

We have to fix this. We can secure our border. We can protect the lives of these people, and we can keep this Nation strong. We can help push back the cartel influence in our Nation and throughout Central and South America.

I have a couple of fellow Members of Congress and friends here who have valuable experience. I thank them for joining me today to help us with this conversation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the good gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CLOUD for organizing this Special Order on this topic that the country is dealing with today.

The Trump administration established strong laws against illegal immigration. President Biden has decided to disregard any success achieved by his predecessor and, instead, announced open borders to the world.

This problem was not created due to conditions abroad but by decisions made at home, and they were political decisions, unfortunately.

Since President Biden was elected, illegal border crossings have skyrocketed. In February 2020, the CBP announced that over 35,000 migrants tried to cross the border illegally. To put this in context, this past February, that number far surpassed 100,000.

Despite having the statistics to prove it, President Biden refuses to call this situation a crisis, which it is.

Aside from halting construction on the border wall as performed by President Trump, the Biden administration